

by our Provincial Board, by means of circulars to correspondents and Health Officers, goes far to show that no better alternative has been recommended—at least I know of none. In Paris the Municipal Council, in making appointments to the Board of Health, have always appointed a physician one of the members. At the first meeting of the Board of Health for the year, a report has always been drawn up recommending to the Municipal Council names for Medical Health Officer and Sanitary Inspector. In accordance with the wishes of the Local Board the physician thereon has always been recommended as Medical Health Officer. Heretofore the council have always adopted the report of the Board. I have quite fallen in with this way of electing Health Officers although I am only an ex-officer. There are a good many satisfactory reasons why a physician on the Board should be appointed Medical Health Officer. Harmony is more likely to be insured, although, as a rule, I believe medical men are working every day more in harmony. In this case the Health Officer is more familiar and more in sympathy with the work of the Board. I cannot entertain the idea at present of electing Health Officers by the popular vote, the method would bring medical men into unseemly contest with each other. I believe Municipal Councils are beginning to think too much of themselves to mix up politics with the appointment of Health Officers. Their desire, I believe, is to sustain their reputation for candor by appointing officers, regardless of any political leanings, who will give satisfaction to the majority of any municipality. The method at present in vogue is somewhat similar to the appointment of High School Trustees and the election of their chairman; and I think few will dispute that the office of chairman of High School Boards is filled by a class of men that leave little to be desired.

In regard to the duties of the Medical Health Officer the first, and it is one of paramount importance, is to acquaint himself with sanitary science. The second duty, as a matter of course, is to apply his knowledge to the prevention of disease in a public way. The duties that devolve upon the Health Officer are many. It is his duty to advise the public on all matters that come under the heading of public hygiene. To use the words of another, "it is his province to enlighten the public with regard to drainage, water supply, ventilation, and sanitation generally, and in respect to measures for the prevention and mitigation of epidemic and contagious diseases."